

My name is George A. Mudge, I am a voter from Sharon, CT. **Passing both HB 6578 (Automatic Voter Registration and Restoring Parolee Voting Rights) and SB 1017 (Permanent Absentee Ballot Drop Boxes)** are extremely important to me because each is clearly the right thing to do and will assure the integrity of our democracy and voting procedures.

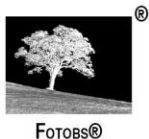
Passing SB 1017 is absolutely necessary so that voters currently qualifying to vote absentee **retain the freedom they had in 2020 to use their town's official, secure ballot drop boxes.**

Codifying into state law **but also expanding Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) beyond the Dept. of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to other state agencies** is a common-sense reform that saves taxpayer money, automatically updates voter rolls and helps increase democratic participation. 77% of Connecticut voters support Automatic Voter Registration. **This bill is a good start but please improve it to expand AVR beyond the DMV.**

Restoring the right to vote to people re-entering their communities on parole is also extremely important to me because **disenfranchising people on parole sustains a racist system of inequality in our state.** Those on parole are concentrated in only a handful of Connecticut communities—those with significant populations of Black and Latino people.

The choice is clear. Please choose democracy and pass HB 6578 with the needed improvement and pass SB 1017. Thank you.

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